

Study Series: Sing!

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 Lesson Title: “Compelled to . . . Sing!” (pp. 19-29)

Session 2

December 12, 2021

The main point of this lesson is: The work of God in our lives should compel us to sing.

**Focus on this goal:** To help adults express the joy of their salvation through singing

**Key Bible Passages:** Psalms 31:21; 40:3; 96:2; 105:2

Before the Session

**1. Provide** two colors of blank index cards or slips of paper; each person will have one of both colors. (Steps 2 and 7)

**2. Provide** hymn books or other Christian song books for adults to browse. (Step 4)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

**Welcome** participants.

**Call attention** to the title of the session (p. 19).

**Invite** participants to review the definition of *compelled* (Day One, activity 1, p. 19). **Ask** participants to brainstorm a list of things they are compelled (made or forced to do) that they do not necessarily enjoy doing. **Then ask** participants to brainstorm a list of things they are compelled to do which they enjoy and have an “irresistible internal urge” to do that helps them or others.

Briefly **explain** that this session will help us investigate several passages from the Psalms and focus on the work of God that compels us to sing. Lead in prayer.

Step 2. Sing from the Heart

**Invite** a volunteer to read Psalm 31:21. **Explain** that this verse helps us remember we face times when we are under siege; we are compelled to celebrate that God shows us His faithful love in the midst of crises as well as in times of celebration.

**Distribute** a set of colored index cards or paper to each person. **Invite** participants to write on one color a couple of instances when they were “under siege,” and on the other color instances when they have experienced a time of celebration. **Invite** several volunteers to share one or two of their examples.

Briefly **examine** several verses throughout Psalm 31 (1-2,4-5,13-15,19-20,22) that call attention to ways the psalmist expected God to work in his life.

**Invite** participants to write a word or phrase on their cards that help call attention to ways God is at work in their particular situations.

Step 3. Cries of Freedom

**Read** Psalm 40:3. **Emphasize** the phrases, “a new song in my mouth,” “a hymn of praise to our God,” and “many will see and fear.” **Lead** participants to discuss what these phrases mean to them in light of some of the challenges and celebrations they have faced.

**Ask:** *How does this influence that we are compelled to sing?*

Briefly **examine** several verses in Psalm 40 (1-2,4-5,7-8,11-12) that can help us focus on ways God is at work as well as actions we should take because of His faithfulness.

Step 4. Scripture’s Salvation Songs, Part 1

**Read** Psalm 96:2 from several Bible translations. **Remind** the participants that we are compelled to 1) sing, 2) bless the name of the Lord, and 3) proclaim His salvation from day to day.

**Call attention** to the concept of blessing the name of the Lord. **Emphasize** that we bless His name as we celebrate who God is and share our love and loyalty to who He is.

**Invite** a volunteer to read Exodus 34:5-7. **Invite** participants to review one or more descriptions God gives of Himself in this passage.

**Discuss** ways we can sing about and bless His name.

**Distribute** hymn books or other Christian song books. **Invite** participants to identify two or three songs that can help them bless the name of the Lord or proclaim God’s salvation from day to day.

Step 5. Scripture’s Salvation Songs, Part 2

**Remind** participants that many psalms are excellent examples of songs to the Lord. **Invite** participants to locate and read Psalm 105:2. **Emphasize** the three segments of the verse, and **remind** participants of the importance that we are compelled to: 1) “Sing to him”; 2) “sing praise to him”; and (3) “tell about all his wondrous works!”

**Write** the word, *praise* on a large sheet of paper or marker board. **Lead** participants to brainstorm words or phrases that help describe what it means to praise the Lord. **Add** these to the paper or board.

Step 6. I’m Clean, I’m Clean

**Call attention** to the third part of Psalm 105:2 and **emphasize** that we are compelled to tell about God’s wondrous works.

**Invite** three volunteers to read Psalm 105:12-22,23-36, and 37-44. **Guide** learners to listen for and identify some specific works God performed as recorded in each section of verses. **Call for** responses from one section before the next is read. Be prepared to **supplement** as participants share some of the things these verses celebrate about God’s wondrous works.

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

**Review** the responses on the two colored pieces of paper or index cards (from Step 2). **Invite** participants to share ways they would complete the statement: “I have seen God work when He did the following: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

After individuals share their response, **lead** everyone to say (or shout): “And I am compelled to sing to the Lord!”

**Invite** participants to locate and sing a song of awe and reverence for God. **Close** in prayer.

**OPTION:** In advance, enlist someone to sing such a song while participants bow in prayer.

